

## REGIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The regional breakout sessions were intended to provide a forum to discuss issues pertinent to particular regions. By bringing together operators, researchers, and scientists who work in a given region, operational improvements can be identified for issues, ranging from eruption reporting to model output to VAAC protocols. Many user needs were brought out, including the need for continuing efforts directed at improving the timely detection and forecasting of ash dispersion and the need to reduce inconsistencies across adjacent areas of responsibility when different dispersion models are used.

### **Breakout Session 8: North Asia Pacific (e.g., Alaska, Russia, Japan)**

Session Moderators: Mr. Christopher Strager, *U.S. Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*  
Ms. Terry Keith, *U.S. Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey/Alaska Volcano Observatory*

### **Breakout Session 9: The Americas and the Caribbean (excluding Alaska)**

Session Moderators: Dr. Patricia Mothes, *Instituto Geofísico de la Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Ecuador*  
Mr. J. Armando Saballos, *Instituto Geofísico de la Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Ecuador*  
Richard Hernandez, *Federal Aviation Administration*

### **Breakout Session 10: Europe, Africa, and the Middle East**

Session Moderators: Dr. Gerald Ernst, *Department of Geology and Soil Science, University of Ghent, Belgium*  
Mr. Jean-Philippe Desbios, *Volcanic Ash Advisory Center, Toulouse, France*

### **Breakout Session 11: South Asia Pacific (e.g., Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand)**

Session Moderators: Mr. Rodney Potts, *Australian Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre*  
Captain David Innes, *Air Niugini*

The regional breakout sessions had one underlying issue they would like to see addressed:

- Conduct regional workshops to provide training on volcanic ash and to improve the implementation of the International Airways Volcanic Watch. In particular, there is a need to refine communication protocols through table-top exercises, multiagency operational plans, etc.

